

APPROVED: Meeting No. 3-91

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 1-91

January 14, 1991

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on January 14, 1991, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepian

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Mayor Duncan stated that immediately preceding the meeting, a reception was held in the City Hall Atrium to honor the following major contributors to the Rockville Holiday Fund Drive:

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine	
Association of Administrative Municipal Employees (City of Rockville)	
American Occupational Therapy	American Red Cross
Atlantic Research Corp.	Bullis School
Century Technologies, Inc.	C & P Telephone
Christ Episcopal School	Christ Episcopal Church
City of Rockville Departments of Recreation, Planning and Public Works	CR Systems, Inc.
Congressional Mufflers, Inc.	Data Measurement Corp.
Dennis Rourke Corporation	Donnelly Directory
First Church of Christ Scientist	IBM
Junior Women's Club of Rockville	I. Magnin
Magraders (Congressional)	Manna Food Center
Marriott Corp.	Mellon Bank
MetPath, Inc.	Mitchell & Best Co.
Montgomery County Public Schools, Central Office, Health and Welfare Fund	
Rockville Chamber of Commerce	Rockville Lions Club

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Rockville Lioness Club	Rockville Pet Hotel
Rockville Power Squadron	Silk Greenhouse
Smith Research	Town & Country Women's Club
Transportation Communications Union	Twinbrook Elementary School
United Broadcasting (WINX)	

Mayor Duncan expressed appreciation to these businesses, community and employee groups for a successful drive which provided assistance to over 1,000 families during the holiday season.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. This past Saturday, there was a meeting held at the Civic Center Mansion to present a study commissioned a year and one-half ago, the purpose of which was to analyze the integrity of the mansion structure and review improvements to be undertaken over a period of time. The various interest groups affiliated with the mansion attended the meeting at which the consultants noted that the mansion is in extremely good physical shape. More information regarding proposals for improvements over a period of time will be transmitted in the coming months.

2. This coming Monday, January 21, the City will hold its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration program at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The keynote speaker is Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, President of the United Black Fund.

3. A successful commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of F. Scott Fitzgerald was held on December 20, 1990. The ceremony was videotaped, and there will be a series of replays on Channel 53 through the end of February. Appointments to an F. Scott Fitzgerald Commemoration Committee will be made by the Mayor and Council later on tonight's agenda. This Committee will carry out a continuing series of programs leading to the 100th Anniversary of Fitzgerald's birth in 1996.

4. With respect to the Adopt-a-Road program, the City is pursuing the direction of the Mayor and Council to attempt to secure from the State Highway Administration and the County Department of Transportation permission to take over any

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and all adopt-a-road programs within the corporate limits. Such approval has been received from the County, and staff is continuing efforts to secure State approval. More detailed information will be provided at the meeting of January 28.

5. During this past week's snowstorms, the City had its first opportunity to fully utilize the snow and ice measures adopted a year and one-half ago which include additional equipment and new manpower. Staff feels that the system worked extremely well. A number of compliments were received regarding how quickly the roads were cleared, and there were very few calls reporting areas missed. The additional resources are serving the City well.

Re: Presentation of Certificates
of Recognition to members of
Richard Montgomery's Cross-
Country Team, 1990 State AAA
Boys Cross-Country Champions:

The Mayor and Council presented Certificates of Recognition to Alan Barney, Anthony Cate, Deresse Harris, Jesse Jones, Nemanja Krsmanovic, Jon Sushinsky and Derek Vandrey, members of the Championship Squad and the following members of the Cross Country Team:

Peter Bach	John Blair
Ezra Cohen	Kelly Dunston
Alexander Eck	Carl Graf
Federico Grau	Sanjey Gupta
Tim Hoffman	Taku Iwasa
Robert Kaufman	Tabish Kazmi
Calvin Lee	Jimmy Lo
Greg Malone	Rory Mays
Jason Potosky	Steve Roth
Dan Schaper	Jon Sims
Joe Steinberger	Nick Tampio
Coaches: Scott Spear and Tim Sonner	

Re: Citizens' Forum

At this time, the Mayor opened the meeting to hear from any citizen who wished to address the Mayor and Council.

1. Paula Pair, 5710 Crawford Drive, addressed several issues:

- During the storm of October 18, 1990, a tree limb fell on her vehicle causing damage. Although the tree is City property, she was recently advised that the City is not liable for the damages. The City Manager will follow-up on this matter.

- Crawford Drive is supposed to be a one-way street; however, traffic travels both ways, including emergency vehicles in non-emergency situations. Mayor Duncan indicated that the City Police would do a directed patrol on that street.

- She also referenced alleged drug dealing across the street from her home. The City and Montgomery County Police Departments have been contacted and indicate the matter is under investigation. Chief Treschuk was requested to follow up in this matter.

2. Dick Haight, former City Councilman, addressed two issues:

- The County Department of Liquor Control is making available on a wholesale basis a fortified wine known as "Cisco." This product, commonly referred to as "liquid crack" is extremely dangerous, and he requested the Mayor and Council to send a letter to the County requesting that they discontinue the sale of this product. Mayor Duncan responded that such a letter would be sent.

- Mr. Haight also referenced the "common ownership communities" legislation recently adopted by Montgomery County, indicating that he hoped such legislation would be adopted in the City.

3. Mansfield Kaseman, 704 Carter Road, noted that Community Ministries is keeping track of the various interfaith services being held in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis and suggested that the Mayor and Council phone or send a letter to the President urging a postponement of a decision to go to war.

4. Glenn Looper, Looper's Servicenter, stated that he uses guard dogs at his place of business and referenced the proposed animal control ordinance as it relates to guard dogs. Mayor Duncan advised Mr. Looper that the City is aware of this issue and

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that a recommendation will be forthcoming from Chief Treschuk regarding this matter.

5. Mark Wetterhahn, 2 Don Mills Court, reported that an agreement has been reached with City staff as to acceptable conditions for the construction of an underground infiltration basin on Don Mills Court. One final issue remained, that Don Mills Court not be used for access for additional housing.

6. Rose Krasnow, 5 Don Mills Court, indicated her pleasure with the outcome of the meetings regarding the underground infiltration basin.

With respect to the Falls Road interchange, she expressed concern with the failure of the State to make the necessary modifications to the signal. She requested that the City apply pressure, and the City Manager reported that they are offering assistance to the State to help in any way. The Mayor suggested that the State Senator and three delegates representing Rockville be made aware of this situation.

Ms. Krasnow extended a special invitation to the Mayor and Council to attend a forum on February 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, sponsored by Beall Elementary School PTA in honor of Black History Month.

There being no other citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor closed the Citizens' Forum portion of the meeting.

Re: Appointments

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Howard Groedel was appointed to a one-year term as Chairperson of the Economic Development Council.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Carol Hannaford was appointed to a one-year term as Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission.

Upon motion of Councilmember Robbins, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Charles Carroccio was appointed to a one-year term as Chairperson of the Recreation and

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Park Advisory Board.

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following individuals were appointed to the newly-created F. Scott Fitzgerald Commemoration Committee: Russell Hamill, Chairperson, Evelyn Fox, Susan Klise, Sima Osdoby, Brian Rauger, Anne Robbins, Steve Rukavina, Margaret Sante, Jeff Slavin, Sandy Sonner, Susan Walsh and Ellyn Wexler.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the minutes of Meeting No. 46-90 (December 10, 1990) were approved, as written.

Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the minutes of Meeting No. 47-90 (December 17, 1990) were approved, as written.

Re: Consent Agenda

Councilmember Hovsepian requested that Items C and D be removed from the Consent Agenda. Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- A. Award of Request for Proposal No. 17-91 in the amount of \$36,998 to Wheeler, Gordon, Masek & Associates, Annapolis, Maryland, for architectural services in connection with interior improvements to the Rockville Senior Center.

Funding in the amount of \$70,000 is budgeted in the FY91 Capital Improvements Program.

- B. Award of Bid No. 57-91 in the amount of \$68,919 to the low bidder, Conyngham Sales Company, for furnishing, delivering and constructing a one-story metal storage building to be located in the rear yard of the Recreation Services building on the Civic Center Mansion grounds.

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Funding in the amount of \$85,000 is budgeted in the FY91 Capital Improvements Program.

- E. Adoption of Resolution No. 1-91, the full text of which can be found in Resolution Book No. 9 of the Mayor and Council, to amend the Charter of the City of Rockville Advisory Commission on Public Education.

At a worksession held with the Commission on April 30, 1990, the Mayor and Council approved amendments to the Objectives section of the Charter of the Advisory Commission on Public Education to provide that the Commission will serve as liaison between the Rockville community and the Mayor and Council on matters of public school education and will facilitate Rockville community involvement in public school education.

- F. Submission of financial reports summarizing the results of City operations for the period from July 1, 1990 through November 30, 1990.

Re: Introduction of Ordinance to amend Chapter 1 of the Rockville City Code so as to permit Chapter 30C, entitled "Towing of Motor Vehicles from Private Property" of the Montgomery County Code to apply within the City of Rockville.

Councilmember Hovsepian had requested that this item (C) be removed from the Consent Agenda in order that the City Manager could provide some information as to the approximate rates for towing set by the County and how it is functioning in the County at this point. The City Manager reviewed the County Executive established rates for vehicles under 8,000 lbs. as follows: maximum towing rate - \$40 plus \$2.50 per mile with a maximum of 12 miles; \$20 special equipment charge for equipment such as a dolly;

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storage charge of \$4 for the first 12 hours and \$8 for each additional 12-hour period; and \$20 for an incomplete tow. The current average price for a tow is \$95 (cash); under the new regulations, the average fee would be between \$58-\$65 which, of course, would vary dependent upon mileage, etc. He noted that the law reinforces the role of the County's Office of Consumer Affairs with respect to other complaints such as condition of storage space, attitudes of operators, etc. In response to Councilmember Hovsepien's suggestion, the City Manager indicated that a one-page summary of the provisions of the ordinance would be mailed to interested individuals with a request for comments.

The Ordinance was duly introduced.

Re: Introduction of Ordinance to
amend Chapter 3, "Animals" of
the Rockville City Code.

Councilmember Hovsepien had requested that this item (D) be removed from the Consent Agenda in order to propose an addition to the end of subsection (c), Section 3-124, Fees, page 39 of the ordinance so as to include in the exemption of license fees any animal "trained as a search dog." It was agreed that the ordinance would be so amended and staff would include appropriate language.

The Ordinance was duly introduced.

Re: Discussion and Instructions
to Staff - Ritchie Parkway
wetlands mitigation project.

The City Manager noted that a public hearing was held on a package of wetlands mitigation sites and water quality sites and that the record had been left open for one month for additional input. One alternative has been included in the package subsequent to the public hearing. There has also been considerable discussion on the undergrounding of the infiltration basin on Don Mills Court following the public hearing, and there appears to be final agreement on such a proposal.

With respect to the identified water quality sites, the City Manager noted

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that the City should proceed with the Leverton Road Dry Well and the West Edmonston Dry Well. As to the Don Mills Court Underground Infiltration Basin, staff and some of the Don Mills Court residents have agreed to a set of principles which everyone is comfortable with. One final issue to be resolved, access, should not be a problem for the City. If the Mayor and Council direct that the Don Mills Underground Infiltration Basin be included in the package, staff will finalize a document outlining the agreement between residents and staff. Some of the issues of concern to the neighborhood were: the ultimate design of the basin including another level of review to involve outside expertise; assurances that when the basin is cleaned, the residue removed will be analyzed by an independent testing laboratory; access to site restricted to maintenance only; manholes at grade, with the City agreeing to further secure through bolts, etc.; and agreement to mark in advance trees that require removal. The City Manager noted that all of the neighborhood's concerns can be accommodated. Councilmember Coyle questioned the access to the basin for maintenance. The City Attorney clarified that the agreement between the City and neighborhood is for limited access purposes, and the City will not cause a road to be cut through in the future. Access will be used only for repair and maintenance of facility.

Regarding the wetlands creation sites, and the seven site elements, the City Manager suggested that sites 1-6 have met with everyone's satisfaction and all issues have been addressed. Item number 7 has now become an alternate (7(a) and 7(b)) between one acre of Woodmont Country Club property or, alternatively, an equivalent amount on excess right-of-way of Cabin John Parkway.

Councilmember Hovsepian indicated that she had inserted at the time of public hearing this alternative of possibly using Cabin John right-of-way. She requested that a decision on this issue be delayed until there has been an opportunity for citizen review and input.

In support of her request, Councilmember Hovsepian indicated that the proposal of using Cabin John right-of-way would reduce by more than one-third the amount of land previously proposed for this area. This means there would still be a sizable grassy area next to the sidewalk. The City would own the land, contribute to ease of maintenance and save money by not having to purchase land from Woodmont Country Club. Providing wetlands in areas adjacent to each other along a streambed would be more acceptable and closer to the original condition than doing it piecemeal.

Those familiar with this area know that the tree island located there is currently a depression surrounded by built-up grassy areas on three sides. Cabin John Parkway currently dead-ends at the entrance to the pool site. The land dedicated by the pool for possible extension of the parkway is classed as wetlands. By using a portion of the Cabin John Parkway right-of-way, the City may be restoring some wetlands area destroyed when the parkway was built. Councilmember Hovsepian indicated that she does not see this proposal as detrimental to the neighborhood. Rather than paying money to Woodmont, it is more acceptable to have areas adjacent to the streambed as opposed to piecemeal. The City Manager agreed, as a general rule, that homogeneous contiguous larger areas are generally preferable to smaller non-contiguous area. Councilmember Hovsepian suggested that the Mayor and Council defer approval of #7 to determine if the community would be willing to accept the alternative.

Mayor Duncan stated that at the two earlier informational meetings, this issue was discussed as part of the original proposal by staff. Councilmember Hovsepian responded that this alternative deals with a different amount of land than the original staff proposal.

Mayor Duncan indicated that the plan cannot be submitted without the acreage required for mitigation. Councilmember Robbins questioned the impact of delay in terms of the plan and construction and was advised by Mayor Duncan that it would involve a

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delay of approximately a month. The City Manager responded that the ultimate date by which the City is technically supposed to have wetlands completed is in early 1992, and any delay would have some impact.

Mayor Duncan reiterated that this issue was addressed at the two informational meetings and the decision was made not to include it in the public hearing package. There is agreement on every portion of the proposal now and the City needs to move forward with the Woodmont Country Club alternative. He noted that the City is paying only 19% of costs; however, Councilmember Hovsepien responded that Rockville residents are also paying a portion of the County and State costs. Councilmember Marrinan indicated that the alternative is a viable option which should be explored and made available for community review. Any costs incurred by a one-month delay would be offset by potential benefits.

Councilmember Coyle remembers raising this alternative with respect to the original proposal, and the general sentiment of the community is that they want no excavation on the right-of-way or Dogwood Park. From a functional point of view, aesthetics, safety, etc., he is more comfortable with the Woodmont Country Club alternative. Mayor Duncan commented that if this alternative were put out for public comment, there would be a strong statement from the community that it is not acceptable.

Eleanor Northway, President of the Hungerford-Stoneridge Civic Association, stated that it is her recollection that all input from the civic association opposed the use of Cabin John Parkway regardless of acreage. She indicated that pursuing this alternative would result in another three-month delay and, in her opinion, the citizens would oppose it.

Councilmember Coyle referenced the realignment of the streambed which might yield some additional wetlands and asked if staff has explored the possibility of picking

up wetlands here by reconstruction of the streambed.

Staff noted the gabion channel designed along with Ritchie Parkway could not be reconstructed as a naturalized channel without further use of gabions. Councilmember Coyle questioned the possibility of using natural rock formation which might serve as a substitute. Staff responded that some rock has been incorporated; however, it is unlikely that one acre of wetlands could be obtained here. Councilmember Coyle stated that he would like the City to pursue this again inasmuch as this option might impact on the amount of land the City needs to purchase. The City Manager responded that staff would follow through; however, staff had been asked to research this in the past, and it appears it will not lead anywhere. Councilmember Coyle commented that the other tributary down Cabin John Parkway had been filled in with silt and debris, and staff advised that a clean-up effort would be undertaken in the final design of the project to improve the wetlands.

Mayor Duncan stated that comments have been received about Dawson Farm Park and asked if modifications were made to address concerns of the neighborhood. The City Manager responded, yes, and staff will be coordinating with the Historic District Commission as well.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, staff was instructed to proceed with the seven water creation sites (Dawson Farm SWM Facility; Mount Vernon SWM Facility; Elwood Smith; West Edmonston; Dogwood Park; Hungerford-Stoneridge Swim Center; Woodmont Country Club) and the three water quality sites (Don Mills Infiltration Basin-underground; Levertown Road Dry Well; West Edmonston Dry Well) for the Ritchie Parkway wetlands mitigation with the understanding that an agreement is forthcoming between the City and residents on the Don Mills Underground Infiltration Basin.

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Councilmember Coyle asked if the City is ready to move forward with negotiations for the acquisition of the property, and the City Manager responded yes, that this would initiate a separate action item. Mayor Duncan noted that land acquisition would be discussed in executive session later that evening.

Re: Adoption of Ordinance to adopt
Text Amendment Application T-
110-90, Rockville Planning
Commission, Applicant.

Ordinance No. 1-91

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Ordinance No. 1-91, the full text of which can be found in Ordinance Book No. 16 of the Mayor and Council, was adopted to amend the Subdivision Regulations to clarify standards for resubdivision of lots in an established residential area.

Re: Adoption of Ordinance to adopt
Text Amendment Application T-
112-90, New Covenant Fellowship
Church, Applicant.

Ordinance No. 2-91

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Ordinance No. 2-91, the full text of which can be found in Ordinance Book No. 16 of the Mayor and Council, was adopted to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow churches, synagogues and other places of worship as permitted uses in the I-3, Industrial Park, Zone.

Re: Adoption of Ordinance to adopt
Text Amendment Application T-
113-90, Rockville Planning
Commission, Applicant.

Ordinance No. 3-91

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed,

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Ordinance No. 3-91, the full text of which can be found in Ordinance Book No. 16 of the Mayor and Council, was adopted to amend the Zoning Ordinance definition of "gross floor area of building" to clarify this term.

Re: Approval of staff
recommendations from Motor
Vehicle Fleet Study

The City Manager reported that the study of the size and composition of the City vehicle fleet emanated from the FY91 budget discussions. As a result of this study, staff has made the following eight recommendations:

1. The City Manager will prepare formal written fleet management policies.
2. Department vehicle purchase and replacement costs will be reflected in individual departmental budgets as opposed to the centralized system previously used. This will allow department heads, the City Manager and Mayor and Council to focus more clearly on the vehicle needs of each department. The Motor Vehicle Management Division will continue to be responsible for Citywide management of the fleet.
3. With respect to the annual auction of unnecessary vehicles, the City will consider utilizing an auction service in order to enhance the proceeds of the auction.
4. The City will adopt basic replacement/review parameters of 50,000 miles or ten years of use for given vehicles. The vehicle's condition and maintenance record will continue to be considered in determining the proper time to replace a particular vehicle. (Hour meters will be used for vehicles not equipped with odometers.)
5. The use of centralized pooling of vehicles will be encouraged and expanded wherever practical. Consideration will be given to assigning newer vehicles to the pool to encourage greater use of pool cars.
6. Where appropriate, more employee use of personal vehicles will be encouraged. In some situations, this is financially sound for both the City and the employee.

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7. For certain vehicles, such as sedans, staff will explore purchasing one-year old vehicles from rental car agencies. A number of neighboring jurisdictions have adopted this practice and are having good experience with it. There are significant costs savings in the purchase of a one-year old vehicle versus a new one.

8. With respect to potential reductions in the fleet as a result of the study, it is recommended that this be addressed as part of the current year's budgeted replacement program. All vehicles scheduled for replacement will be given yet another review which will utilize the results of the motor vehicle study. Consideration will be given to the condition of the vehicle and maintenance records as well as to any potential adverse impact on the level of government services if the vehicle is not replaced. This practice would be instituted for the current FY91 fiscal year and permanently established in the FY92 fiscal year.

Councilmember Marrinan commended staff for the study and questioned the origin of the 50,000 mile/ten-year replacement parameter. The City Manager responded that it was a distillation of what staff learned in the study. Staff is sensitive to concerns that the standard previously used seemed low; thus, the suggested higher plateau. However, the standard can be very arbitrary which is why the review date will be helpful.

As to whether the centralized pooling applies to police department vehicles, Councilmember Marrinan was advised that it does not because of the marked nature of the cars.

Councilmember Coyle suggested that the benchmark be raised to 70,000 or 75,000 miles for replacement; that 50,000 miles is at the low end of replacement and the figure should be moved up as high as possible. As to the police department's 22 vehicles, it was noted that no change in the number of vehicles is recommended, yet this issue was the impetus for the study. The City Manager responded that the study illustrated that, on average, the department has an adequate number of vehicles and it was felt that there

was no need for a change.

Councilmember Robbins requested clarification of the average miles for replacement for a pool car versus a police car, and if they are different because of level of demand or services. He was advised that although the specifications are different for the two types of vehicles, the replacement/review guidelines are adequate citywide. In the case of police vehicles, the mileage would kick in first whereas in a pool car, the ten-year review would most likely occur first.

Councilmember Hovsepien commented on the thoroughness of report and her satisfaction with the report, as presented.

Councilmember Marrinan referenced pool purchasing arrangements and was advised that the City does piggyback on contracts with the County, State and Council of Governments.

Councilmember Marrinan referenced the issue of police cars regularly parked at City Hall and seemingly not being used a great deal of the time. He asked if the issue of assigning cars to individual officers was reviewed and addressed. The City Manager commented that the City does not have a policy of take-home cars, but it has been the City's policy to provide a sufficient number of automobiles so a given shift has its own complement of vehicles within reason. Scheduling cars 24 hours per day results in implications for additional wear and tear. The City provides a period of down time to schedule regular, dependable maintenance. From an operational standpoint, this policy also provides the flexibility necessary for programs such as Officer Tuttle, the voluntary speed detection program, Neighborhood Services Crime Watch, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE).

In response to Councilmember Marrinan's question as to a review of the trade-offs between the large capital investment for police vehicles and the services made available by the police department, Chief Treschuk advised that each car is used for two

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shifts and that the key factor is hours of operation rather than mileage. If the City did away with overlapping schedules, fewer cars would be needed; however, under the current policy, more police officers can be on the street at high peak activity times.

Mayor Duncan agreed with Councilmember Coyle that average miles for replacement/review should be increased to about 75,000. He noted an earlier concern that the number of vehicles as set forth in the City Hall space needs study was 305 although in this report the number is 190. The City Manager and staff clarified the definition of vehicles used in this report versus the earlier study.

Mayor Duncan suggested 75,000 miles and ten years with a separate standard for police vehicles for public safety reasons.

Discussion followed regarding the effect on level of City services in reducing the fleet. Mayor Duncan indicated that as a result of this study, no cuts will be made to the fleet. Councilmember Hovsepian asked staff to provide suggestions for reducing the number of vehicles in the future.

In response to Mayor Duncan's question as to whether any savings are being realized this fiscal year as a result of the study, staff responded that there is a potential for savings of \$225,000 with full implementation of the study.

Councilmember Coyle asked if there is a more efficient way to store non-motorized vehicles. He also noted the traffic and parking implications when employees are required to drive their own cars.

Upon motion of Councilmember Hovsepian, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the above eight recommendations of staff regarding the motor vehicle fleet were adopted with an amendment to recommendation #4 that the replacement review level would be 70,000 miles or ten years; however, a different set of standards is to be developed for police department vehicles. At Councilmember Marrinan's request, it was agreed that the number of miles guideline would be reviewed annually.

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Re: FYI/Correspondence

Traffic Signal - Montrose Road at Farm Haven

Councilmember Coyle noted the County's response that this intersection did not meet the warrants, including safety, for justification to install a traffic signal. He asked how safety is defined, and if this issue should be pursued further. Mayor Duncan noted that the City would look to North Farm and the County neighborhoods for further action.

Walkway in Falls Ridge Subdivision

The City Manager advised Councilmember Coyle that although a walkway to Falls Road was originally planned for this subdivision, the community has made it clear that they are not in favor of the walkway.

Home Occupation Regulations

The City Manager advised Councilmember Coyle that this would be pursued only if the Mayor and Council so desired. Councilmember Coyle indicated that input from neighborhood associations should be sought to see if there is a growing interest. Councilmember Hovsepian noted that the City should review this, especially in terms of removing the restriction for employees which is a separate issue from customers. Mayor Duncan indicated that he is reluctant to move forward on this issue. Councilmember Coyle requested a report as to what types of home occupations are evolving to determine what changes may be needed in Rockville to meet the demand. Councilmember Hovsepian suggested that the Economic Development Council review this issue, and the City Manager responded that this matter would be studied and a report forwarded to the Mayor and Council.

City of Baltimore's 1991 Friendship Games

Mayor Schmoke of Baltimore has invited the City to participate in these games, and Councilmember Hovsepian asked if there is any more detailed information other than what is set forth in the letter. Mayor Duncan responded that the letter had been

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forwarded to the City-to-City Task Force; however, the Commission members have recommended that the Task Force be disbanded because Baltimore has not appointed a citizens' committee. Staff relations continue to work very well, and it was recommended that the letter be turned over to staff so that they can pursue the matter.

Recognition of Individual Employees

Councilmember Hovsepian noted two items of correspondence from commission chairpersons requesting recognition of individual employees. The City Manager was requested to review this matter and make a policy recommendation. One of the problems in this area is that there are many employees who do a good job and it does not seem fair to single out individuals. Mayor Duncan indicated that he feels these requests should be referred back to the commissions for their own commendations if they wish to recognize an individual employee. He also noted that the City Manager will be reviewing the employee evaluation and pay packages as a way to recognize outstanding performance.

DARE Program at Beall Elementary

Councilmember Hovsepian noted the letter on behalf of the 5th grade students at Beall Elementary commending Officer Walsh not only for the DARE Program, but also the "I Like Myself" program. She stated that she is pleased that the City went forward with the DARE program.

Letter from Mrs. Ogburn/Pedestrian Safety Report

Councilmember Hovsepian referenced the suggestion of Mrs. Ogburn that bus stop areas be paved. She would like to see this suggestion passed on to the County as an incentive to encourage more people to use Metro.

In the staff report on Pedestrian Safety, it was stated that the State Highway Administration does not provide sidewalks along State highways in Rockville so these must be installed and maintained by the City. Since the mid-1980's, the State Highway Administration has been installing sidewalks in conjunction with new roadway construction

but maintenance of these new walks remains a City responsibility. It was noted in the report that a persistent criticism of the City is placement of sidewalks against the roadway edge. This is an outgrowth of the street planning of 30 years ago; it remains nevertheless better to construct sidewalks adjacent to the curb than not to build them at all. These types of sidewalks are difficult to deal with under winter conditions. Plowing of the roadway pushes accumulated snow onto the adjacent sidewalk, often making the narrower sidewalks impassable. To deal with this problem, the City could consider a program of outright removal of accumulated snow from sidewalks adjacent to curbs. All sidewalk areas would be identified where this is a potential problem and the implications of such a new program on the City's budget and labor force would be determined. Councilmember Hovsepian indicated that she would like to pursue the identification of those areas that have sidewalks adjacent to streets to determine an appropriate approach for dealing with this problem. The City Manager will provide further information.

Councilmember Coyle asked if other cities have standby crews that can go out after plowing and clean up the bus stops or special problem areas. The City Manager noted that most cities follow the same policy as Rockville, that is, carefully maintain the sidewalks where the City is the abutting property owner. To implement a procedure of utilizing standby crews would not only be extremely expensive, but difficult in terms of obtaining the required manpower. Additionally, there is an inherent coordination problem considering the number of times a snow plow may cover certain streets.

Councilmember Hovsepian asked if the City cleans the sidewalk across the bridge on Veirs Mill Road which is used as a walkway and was not cleaned in the recent snowstorms. Staff will follow-up on this.

Delegate Gordon's Letter to State Highway Administration

Mayor Duncan expressed his appreciation for Delegate Gordon's letter to Hal Kassofoff of the State Highway Administration regarding the State placing a hold on the

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renovation of W. Montgomery Avenue.

Re: New Business

Councilmember Marrinan noted that at the recent testimonial dinner for Walter Scheiber, retiring as Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Executive Director and also a former City Manager of the City of Rockville, it was mentioned that a number of other former Rockville employees are now in positions with the County, State and planning associations around the country. The City has a history of having fine employees and serving as a training ground for a number of fine public employees.

With respect to the Fire Sprinkler Retrofit Task Force, Councilmember Coyle stated that they had met twice and are attempting to get to the economics of the issue. Mr. Kimmel and the Americana Centre Apartments will be working with Task Force members on an analysis as to the cost to retrofit the Americana Centre Apartments. If the City went to the County Fire tax rate, there would be a significant increase in taxes, 12 to 15 cents. One incentive to garner business community support for retrofitting is insurance savings and increased property value. However, the City needs an indication from the County that they would be willing to reconsider placing Rockville in the consolidated fire tax district if the City retrofits, thereby moderating the costs of fire and rescue. Mayor Duncan commented that the County Fire and Rescue Services has recommended that Rockville be incorporated into the consolidated fire tax district. It is important to start activating citizens to fight the tax increase, and he requested that information regarding this issue be made available for distribution to local neighborhoods.

Re: Executive Session

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Mayor and Council convened in Executive Session at 10:07 p.m. to discuss personnel, land disposition and acquisition matters and to consult with legal counsel.

Meeting No. 1-91

22

January 14, 1991

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m., to convene again in Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. on January 22, 1991, or at the call of the Mayor.